

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of the Claims:**

**CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
  - detecting a data rate from an incoming data signal;
  - selecting an external reference clock frequency corresponding to the detected data rate;
  - frequency and phase locking to the incoming data stream;
  - and
  - automatically configuring a serializer to correspond to the detected data rate by using a random algorithm to configure the serializer to a desired LAN or WAN mode.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the automatically configuring a serializer to correspond to the detected data rate comprises:

initiating a time delay to configure the serializer from a LAN mode to a WAN mode.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2, wherein [in] the time delay is 1.6 milliseconds.

4. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

a data rate detection unit to detect a data rate from an incoming data signal;

a frequency selector unit coupled to the data rate detection unit to select an external reference clock frequency corresponding to the detected data rate;

a phase lock unit to perform frequency and phase locking to the incoming data stream;

and

a serializer automatically configured to correspond to the detected data rate by using a random algorithm to configure the serializer to a desired LAN or WAN mode.

26. (New) The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein the serializer is automatically configured by initiating a time delay to configure the serializer from a LAN mode to a WAN mode.

27. (New) The method of Claim 26, wherein the time delay is 1.6 milliseconds.